

S E C R E T

11 January 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Office Directors and NIOs
FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator
SUBJECT : Presidential Briefing Topics for 17 January 1978

1. The following major topics were briefed on 10 January in addition to some topics pertaining to collection and some items of routine business.

- A. Shcharanskiy
- B. Dollar Costing Soviet Forces
- C. Italy

2. The following topics are nominated for the Presidential briefing on 17 January 1978.

- A. NIE 11-3/8
- B. SALT Status
- C. Nuclear Weapons Developments Relating to Reconvening of CTB Negotiations
- D. Libya
- E. Counterintelligence
- F. Horn of Africa Update

3. The following subjects are in various stages of preparation for future Presidential Briefings. The responsible officer and planned dates, if known, are shown:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| A. Japan's Relations with USSR & PRC (NIO/EAP) | 7 February |
| B. Reduced Oil Production Impact on the World Economy (OER) | 31 January |
| C. Sino-Soviet Dispute (NIO/China) | 31 January |
| D. Soviet Map Distortions (OGCR) | 24 January |
| E. Review of Collection Assets (DDO) | 24 January |
| F. Covert Communications (OTS) | 24 January |

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E. US Area Research Capability (NIO/PE)	14 February
F. Monitoring a CW Ban (OSI)	14 February
G. NIE 11-4 (NIO/USSR)	7 February
H. Telemetry (OWI)	24 February
I. Soviet Forced Labor Camps (OGCR)	early March
J. West European Unemployment Problems Political Ramifications (NIO/PE)	24 January

4. The following additional topics have been proposed as possible future topics for Presidential Briefings. These topics have not yet been approved by DNFAC. When he has approved a topic, the responsible officer will be asked to provide an outline for the DCI's approval. Preparation of the draft briefing will start after the outline is approved.

- A. Evaluation of Performance of Imagery Systems
- B. Use of Foreign Labor and Technicians in Arabian States
- C. Detection of Mobile Missile Deployments
- D. South African Nuclear Developments
- E. Status of INFCE
- F. Chinese Strategic Missile Deployment
- G. Soviet Laser Facility

5. The following topics have been deleted from the list of working topics for the reasons indicated:

- A. Libyan Military Equipment Inventory
(similar to briefing given in October)
- B. Soviet Interest in Very Large Space Boosters
(handled in PDB)

6. The D/SR, D/IA, NIO/PE, NIO/CH and NIO/WE are requested to submit nominations for topics to be used in late February to the Presidential Briefing Coordinator by COB Tuesday 17 January in Room 7G25. D/ORPA, D/OCR, NIO/NP, NIO/NESA and NIO/LA will be requested to submit topics for use on the last day of February the following week.

7. The Presidential Briefing Coordinator's Office has been shifted from 7D61 to 7G25. Telephones are [redacted]

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File in
"Presidential
Briefings"
abt 10 Jan 78

ISSUES IN THE REVIEW OF PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PREPARATIONS

I. Relevance of Material

A. We feel the need to include current intelligence to elicit the President's needs.

B. We have discussed various ways to solicit his guidance directly, but have rejected them so far as likely unproductive.

C. The key tone seems to be predicting what the President will be doing, what decisions will be required of him, what opportunities will be open, etc. We have nothing of the kind now.

II. Sufficiency and Efficiency of Director's Preparations

A. Perhaps half of the major topics briefed in the last quarter were not subjects of the DCI's attention for other reasons.

B. In only a handful of cases did the DCI receive background material to build his expertise in a topic more than a week in advance.

C. More than half of the DCI/NFAC seminars were devoted to subjects that the DCI later briefed, but nearly all seminars were basic tutorial, rather than exchanges. Rarely were more than half of the NIOs present and no Office Directors attended.

D. The DCI usually has written his own talking points for each topic the night before a briefing.

III. Effectiveness of Resources Used

A. The topic selection process appears complex and unwieldy. We are reluctant to reject topics early on apparently because the nominating statements do not contain enough information to evaluate the topic.

B. Analysts have been angered by the preparation process apparently as the result of several factors any one of which may contribute to a particular problem. They include shifting guidance during the drafting process, halting work in progress and misdirected effort on the part of analysts.

IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR CHANGING PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PROCEDURES

- I. Presidential Briefing Coordinator (PBC) draft talking point papers after a correct draft is submitted by analysts with no further analyst involvement unless substantive problems arise.
- II. Establish an Assistant PBC as a rotating assignment for junior NFAC analysts for a two month tour.
- III. Assign one officer the duty of assembling and maintaining a calander of US and foreign government activities that bear on the scheduling of intelligence production including Presidential briefings.
- IV. Assign an NFAC career officer as PBC